

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 STRE-00 /124 W

-----011550 302027Z /23

R 300019Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2364

UNCLAS MEXICO 14253

PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD

SUBJECT: TOMATO MEETINGS

1. ING. FRANCISCO RAMOS CANTORAL, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS, SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE, ADVISED AGATT INFORMALLY THAT THE MEXICAN SIDE IS WILLING TO HAVE THE SECOND STAGE OF THE TALKS ON HORTICULTURAL TRADE IN WASHINGTON ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 18, CARRYING OVER UNTIL TUESDAY IF NECESSARY. FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF MEETING DATE AWAITING INTERAGENCY CLEARANCE.

2. RAMOS SUGGESTED CONTINUING ALONG SAME LINES OF AGENDA USED IN JUNE, PROPOSING ONLY ONE ADDITIONAL ITEM: THE INSPECTION FACILITIES AT NOGALES. WHILE HE DID NOT ELABORATE AND PROMISED MORE COMPLETE DETAILS LATER, IT IS ASSUMED THAT THIS INVOLVES THE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO TRAILERS FOR SAMPLING. MEXICANS HAVE MISINTERPRETED THIS, SOME APPARENTLY BELIEVING THAT IT INVOLVES A SAMPLING OF FIFTY PERCENT OF EACH TRAILER LOAD.

3. GOM IS THINKING IN TERMS OF FOUR PRIVATE SECTOR ADVISORS, TWO EACH FROM THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL PRO-
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DUCERS UNION (UNPH) AND THE CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS OF THE STATE OF SINALOA (CAADES). ALTHOUGH NO NAMES WERE OFFERED, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT UNPH REPRESENTATIVES WILL INCLUDE JOSE CARLOS DE SARACHO, UNPH PRESIDENT, AND EITHER VICE-PRESIDENT GASPAR LIZARAZU OR GENERAL MANAGER MARIO ROBLES. THE CAADES REPS WILL PROBABLY BE GENERAL MANAGER JOSE E. LOPEZ PORTILLO (WHO

CLAIMS KINSHIP TO THE PRESIDENT) AND EITHER ERNESTO ALVAREZ FROM THE MARKETING DIVISION OR FERNANDO MURILLO, THE MEXICO CITY REPRESENTATIVE. ALL SIX UNDERSTAND ENGLISH AND ROBLES AND ALVAREZ ARE BILINGUAL.

4. MAKEUP OF OFFICIAL SIDE OF DELEGATION STILL UNCERTAIN, BUT RAMOS WILL LIKELY BE CHAIRMAN. MCANINCH

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